

MY GOD

I was standing in the sandwich line
at the racetrack on a Saturday,
47,000 people
in the dream,
and there was an old woman in her
mid-sixties
standing up against a steel girder
and she had a 2 dollar ticket in
her hand
plus
her program
and a full cup of hot coffee.
and while holding her program
and her coffee
and her 2 dollar ticket
she opened her purse and reached in.
and as she did
the paper coffeecup jiggled
splashing one of her hands
with hot coffee.
she held still a moment
recovered and continued:
she found her social security check.
then she had the
check, the coffee, the ticket, her
program and her purse in her hands
and again the coffeecup jiggled
and the steaming coffee spilled on her hands
again.
then she had the social security check in
her mouth
and then somebody bumped her shoulder
and the hot coffee again spilled
over her hands and
into her purse.
her hands were scalded and red.
I was going to help her
I was going to say, "look, lady,
let me hold that coffee for you."
but then my line moved forward
and I told the counter girl, "I'll
have a corned beef on rye."
and she asked, "with or without
barbecue sauce?"
and I answered,
"without."

but what hurt me about the old
woman was that she never screamed
all during it.

it was like watching a totally
unbearable horror
movie.

I ate my corned beef
sandwich.

THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL
WALKING PAST THE GRAVEYARD --

as I stop my car at the signal
I see her walking past the graveyard.

as she walks past the iron fence
I can see through the iron fence
and I can see the headstones
and the green lawn.

her body moves in front of the iron fence
the headstones do not move.

I think,
doesn't anybody else see this?

I think,
does she see the headstones?

if she does
she has some cleverness that I don't have
for she appears to ignore them.

I see her body moving in its
magic fluid
and her long hair is lighted
by the 3 p.m. sun.

the signal changes
she crosses the street to the west
I drive west.

I drive my car down to the ocean
get out
and run up and down
in front of the sea for 35 minutes

seeing people here and there
with eyes and ears and toes
and various parts.

nobody seems to care.